PORTRAIT OF A CITY
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THE INSURANCE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD
(HARTFORD, CT.)

TAPE: CUT ONE -- SOUND OF AIRPLANE, ESTABLISH, FADE UNDER AND HOLD.

NARR: THIRTY THOUSAND FEET ABOVE THE CITY OF NEW YORK, WITH ITS LIGHTS FLICKERING LIKE TINY JEWELS AGAINST A BLACK VELVET DRAPE, A COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT FLIES NORTHEAST. ON THE HORIZON MORE THAN A HUNDRED MILES AWAY STANDS A SOLITARY BEACON OF BLUISH WHITE. IT SITS ATOP THE TOWER OF THE TRAVELERS INSURANCE COMPANY AND SENDS ITS BEAM IN ALL DIRECTIONS...A FINGER OF LIGHT BECKONING ALL WHO SEE IT TO COME TO NEW ENGLAND...TO THE LARGEST CITY IN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT.... THE INSURANCE CAPITOL OF THE WORLD....HARTFORD.

TAPE: SOUND OF TELETYPE...ESTABLISH, AND HOLD UNDER

NARR: HEAR THAT? THAT'S THE NEWS TO BE INCLUDED IN TODAY'S EDITION OF THE HARTFORD COURANT, THE LDEST CONTINUOUSLY PUBLISHED NEWSPAPER IN AMERICA. ESTABLISHED IN 1764, ITS FRONT PAGES, PRESERVED TO THIS DAY, READ LIKE A LIVING HISTORY BOOK. THERE IN BOLD INK IS THE STORY OF THE BATTLE OF CONCORD AND LEXINGTON, THE FUSE THAT IGNITED THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. A REPORT TELLS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON'S ARRIVAL IN HARTFORD IN JUNE OF 1775 ON HIS WAY TO CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS TO TAKE COMMAND OF THE CONTINENTAL ARMY. ANOTHER TELLS OF A POST RIDER DISMOUNTING HIS LATHERED HORSE TO READ A DOCUMENT THAT HAS COME ALL THE WAY FROM PHILADELPHIA...SIGNED EIGHT DAYS EARLIER. IT BEGINS.."WHEN IN THE COURSE OF HUMAN EVENTS..." THIS PAPER IS A DECLARATION....OF INDEPENDENCE. THE COLONIES HAVE DISSOLVED ALL TIES WITH GREAT BRITAIN!

NARR: (CONT'D) THE HEADLINES CONTINUE TO TELL AMERICA'S STORY. THE WAR'S END. THE TREATY AT VERSAILLES, ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION. THE CONSTITUTION.

GEORGE WASHINGTON IS PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, ALL THIRTEEN OF THEM, AND A YOUNG ARCHITECT STRIDES BACK AND FORTH IN THE RUTTED ROAD AS A GROUP OF MASONS CREATE HIS MASTERPIECE THAT IS TO BE THE SEAT OF STATE GOVERNMENT.

TAPE: CUT THREE -- BLANCHE CAPILOS

"THE OLD STATE HOUSE WAS DESIGNED BY CHARLES BULLFINCH AND IT WAS OPEND IN 1796."

NARR: THIS IS BLANCHE CAPILOS, CURATOR OF THE OLD STATE HOUSE, WHICH SERVED AS THE STATE CAPITOL FOR OVER A HUNDRED YEARS.

TAPE: CUT FOUR -- BLANCHE CAPILOS

"MANY HISTORIC EVENTS HAVE TAKEN PLACE HERE IN THE BUILDING AS WELL AS ON THE SIGHT. BEFORE THE OLD STATE HOUSE WAS BUILT THERE WAS AN OLD OLD STATE HOUSE, A WOODEN STRUCTURE THAT STOOD HERE FROM 1720. AND PRIOR TO THAT THERE WAS AN OLD MEETING HOUSE, AND IT WAS THAT MEETING HOUSE THAT THE REVEREN HOOKER MADE HIS FAMOUS SERMON WHICH WAS TO BECOME THE BASIS FOR THE FUNDAMENTAL ORDERS, CONNECTICUT'S FIRST WRITTEN CONSTITUTION."

NARR: OH, WHAT RADICALS THOSE PIONEERS WERE! THE FUNDAMENTAL ORDER ACTUALLY SET FORTH THE PRINCIPLE THAT "TH FOUNDATION OF AUTHORITY IS IN THE FREE CONSENT OF THE PEOPLE."

HARTFORD WAS FOUNDED BY THE REVEREND THOMAS HOOKER AND HIS FOLLOWERS WHO CAME FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS BAY COLONY IN SEARCH OF NEW LAND. THEY WERE GRANTED A CHARTER BY KING CHARLES II, ACTUALLY MAKING THE COLONY INDEPENDENT.

NARR: (CONT'D) SIR EDMUND ANDROS, THE APPOINTED GOVERNOR OF ALL THE NEW ENGLAND COLONIES TRIED TO GET IT BACK. ANDROS AND AN ARMED ESCORT ARRIVED IN HARTFORD, MET WITH THE TOWN OFFICIALS, AND DEMANDED THE CHARTER'S RETURN. SUDDENLY, THE CANDLES BLEW OUT, AND WHEN THEY WERE RELIGHTED THE CHARTER WAS GONE. JOSEPH WADSWORTH HAD HIDDEN THE PARCHMENT IN THE HOLLOW OF AN OLD OAK TREE WHICH THEREAFTER BECAME KNOWN AS THE CHARTER OAK.

BUT THAT TOOK PLACE ALMOST A HUNDRED YEARS BEFORE THE AMERICA REVOLUTION. SURELY, IN THE OLD STATE HOUSE OF THE 1800'S MEN WERE LESS RADICAL.

TAPE: CUT FIVE -- BLANCHE CAPILOS

"THE CONVENTION OF 1818 TOOK PLACE HERE IN THE SENATE CHAMBER AND ALSO THE CONVENTION OF 1814. DURING THE WAR OF 1812 THE NEW ENGLAND STATES THOUGHT THEY WERE BEING DISCRIMINATED AGAINST AND CONSEQUENTLY THEY MET HERE IN THE SENATE CHAMBER AND PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS TO THE NEWLY WRITTEN CONSTITUTION. SOME PEOPLE THOUGHT THAT THEY WERE BEING TREASONOUS FOR THE THINGS THEY PUT DOWN ON PAPER AND WERE PROPOSING, AND CONSEQUENTLY THERE WAS A LOT OF COMMOTION WITH THE U.S. AT THAT TIME AS TO THIS CONVENTION. BUT BEFORE THEY WERE ABLE TO BRING THEIR PROPOSALS TO WASHINGTON THE TREATY WAS SIGNED."

NARR: THE WAR OF 1812 WAS OVER, BUT HARTFORD, WHICH UP TO THAT TIME HAD BEEN A GREAT SHIPPING PORT ON THE CONNECTICUT RIVER, WAS CAUGHT IN A DEPRESSION FROM WHICH ITS WATER-BORNE COMMERCE WAS NEVER TO RECOVER.

BUT WHAT IT LOST IN SHIPPING WAS MORE THAN MADE UP FOR IN YANKEE INGENUITY. THE FIRST PNEUMATIC TIRES EVER BUILT IN AMERICA CAME FROM A HARTFORD PLANT IN 1894, AND COLT'S FIREARMS COMPANY CARRIED A LOCAL TRADEMARK "THE ARM OF LAW AND ORDER" TO THE ENTIRE WORLD. BUT PERHAPS HARTFORD WAS

NARR: (CONT'D) BEST KNOWN, AT LEAST IN CERTAIN CIRCLES, AS A LITERARY CENTER. HARRIEST BEECHER STOWE, AUTHOR OF "UNCLE TOM'S CABIN," WHICH CHAMPIONED THE CAUSE OF ABOLITION AND PROBABLY DID AS MUCH AS ANYTHING TO IGNITE THE CIVIL WAR, LIVED THERE. SO DID CHARLES DUDLEY WARNER, ACTOR WILLIAM GILLETTE AND AN IRASCIBLE YOUNG MAN WITH SHOCKING RED HAIR AND MUSTACHE NAMED MARK TWAIN.

TAPE: CUT SIX -- MRS. DEXTER PECK

"HE CAME HERE THROUGH ELISHA BLISS WHO WAS THE HEAD OF THE AMERICAN PUBLISHING COMPANY, WHICH WAS LOCATED HERE IN HARTFORD. MARK TWAIN IN 1867 HAD TAKEN A CRUISE TO THE MEDITERANEAN. THE RESULT OF THAT CRUISE WAS HIS WRITINGS AND A BOOK CALLED "THE INNOCENTS ABROAD." ELISHA BLISS HEARD OF THIS AND PERSUADED MARK TWAIN TO COME HERE. THEY TALKED IT OVER AND CONSEQUENTLY THE BOOK WAS PUBLISHED HERE IN HARTFORD. THAT WAS THE BEGINNING OF HIS HARTFORD ASSOCIATION."

NARR: MRS. DEXTER PECK, LIBRARY CHAIRMAN OF THE MARK TWAIN MEMORIAL HOME. IF MARK TWAIN WASN'T BORN IN HARTFORD, SOME OF HIS MOST FAMOUS CHARACTERS WERE... TOM SAWYER, HUCK FINN, THE PRINCE AND THE PAUPER, A CONNECTICUT YANKEE IN KING ARTHUR'S COURT ALL WERE SPUN LIKE A WEB FROM THE PEN OF THIS CREATIVE GENIUS.

THE HOUSE HE BUILT IS TRULY UNUSUAL - PERHAPS STARTLING IS A BETTER TERM FOR IT. IT IS TOTALLY VICTORIAN, COMPLETE WITH COMPLEX CHIMNEYS, TURRETED BALCONIES, HUGE PORCHES. YET, IT IS COMPLETELY UNIQUE, LOOKING NOT UNLIKE A MISSISSIPPI RIVERBOAT, ACCORDING TO SOME. THE ACTUAL BRICKWORK WAS PAINTED ORANGE AND BLACK, AND ONE CAN IMAGINE THE ELEGANT CARRIAGES THAT WOULD SWEEP UP TO THE FRONT DOOR, TO BE OPENED BY GEORGE THE BUTLER, WHO WOULD THEN ASSIST THE LADIES

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NARR: FROM THE CAB. AND WHO WOULD PASS UP THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE THE GUEST, FOR EVEN ONE NIGHT OF THIS VITAL YOUNG AUTHOR WHOSE WRITINGS WERE ALREADY BEING WIDELY ACCLAIMED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD...? THERE WERE ACTORS LIKE HENRY IRVING, HEROES LIKE GENERAL WILLIAM TECUMSEH SHERMAN AND OF COURSE, MARK TWAIN'S COLLEAGUES - RUDYARD KIPLING, WILLIAM DEAN HOWELLS, BRET HART - ALL THERE TO ENJOY HIS HUMOR, TO TASTE HIS BITING SARCASM, TO SHARE HIS IDEALS.

TAPE: CUT SEVEN -- MRS. DEXTER PECK

"HE WAS A MAN WHO THOUGHT, WHO BELIEVED IN TRUTH, WHO FOUGHT FOR WHAT HE BELIEVED."

NARR: IF HARTFORD, WAS TRULY A LITERARY CENTER, IT CERTAINLY NURTURED AN INTEREST IN THE ARTS AS WELL.

IN 1841, DANIEL WADSWORTH, TOGETHER WITH A GROUP OF LEADING CITIZENS, RAISED TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS BY PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTIO FOR THE CREATION OF A GALLERY OF FINE ARTS. TODAY, THAT GALLERY, KNOWN AS THE WADSWORTH ATHENEUM IS THE OLDEST PUBLIC ART MUSEUM IN AMERICA IN CONTINUOUS OPERATION.

TAPE: CUT EIGHT -- TRACY ATKINSON

"IT HAS CERTAIN HIGH POINTS IN THE STRENGTH OF ITS COLLECTIONS - AMERICAN DECORATIVE ARTS, PARTICULARLY OF THE 17TH CENTURY -AMERICAN 17TH CENTURY FURNITURE - THE LARGEST AND FINEST COLLECTION OF ITS KIND IN THE COUNTRY, IS IN THIS MUSEUM."

NARR: TRACY ATKINSON, DIRECTOR OF THE WADSWORTH ATHENEUM.

TAPE: CUT NINE-- TRACY ATKINSON

"HARTFORD IS A VERY SOPHISTICATED PLACE, I FIND. THERE IS A VERY LARGE BODY OF KNOWLEDGEABLE PEOPLE, I THINK, MUCH MORE SO THAN IN OTHER AREAS. IT'S REFLECTED IN STATISTICS LIKE THE FACT THAT I UNDERSTAND THAT THE READERSHIP OF DAILY

TAPE: (CONT'D) NEWSPAPERS IS 85 PERCENT HERE. THAT'S EXTRAORDINARY HIGH AND I THINK THAT LEVEL OF LITERACY AND INTEREST REFLECTS ITSELF IN THE AUDIENCE FOR THE ART MUSEUM. SO OUR TRADITIONAL AUDIENCE HERE IS RATHER LARGE COMPARABLY SPEAKING. I THINK THAT REFLECTS THE LENGTH OF HISTORY OF THE CITY. IT IS AN OLD CITY, ONE OF THE OLDEST IN THE UNITED STATES AS YOU KNOW AND THE EDUCATION LEVEL IS PERHAPS A RESULT OF THAT. SO THAT THE ARGUMENT FOR SUPPORT OF THE INSTITUTIONS AMONG OTHER THINGS IS HOW GOOD THEY SHOULD BE, NOT WHETHER OR NOT THEY SHOULD BE HERE."

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NARR: UNLIKE OTHER NEW ENGLAND CITIES, HARTFORD IS NOT KNOWN PARTICULARLY FOR ITS INDUSTRIAL ACHIEVEMENTS, ALTHOUGH IT GAVE BIRTH TO THE AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY, AND TODAY SUPPLIES THE ENGINES TO THE LARGEST AIRCRAFT IN THE WORLD-THE BOEING 747'S THAT CARRY PASSENGERS FROM ONE SIDE OF THE GLOBE TO THE OTHER.

BUT IT IS THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY FOR WHICH IT IS MOST NOTED. INSURANCE WAS AN OUTGROWTH OF THE BANKS WHICH GREW WITH EARLY TRADE AND COMMERCE AT THIS RIVER PORT OF ENTRY. MARINE INSURANCE WAS WRITTEN TO COVER SHIPPING HAZARDS. SLOWLY IT EVOLVED TO COVER FIRE RISKS, AND EVENTUALLY, TO THE ACCIDENT, LIFE AND LIABILITY FIELDS.

AFTER THE GREAT NEW YORK FIRE OF 1835, ELIPHALET TERRY, PRESIDENT OF THE HARTFORD FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, MOUNTED A WOODEN CRATE AMID THE SMOULDERING RUINS AND ASSURED ALL OF HIS POLICY HOLDERS THAT THEY WOULD GET THEIR MONEY. ALTHOUGH TERRY'S SHARE OF THE TWENTY MILLION DOLLAR LOSS WAS ONLY SIXTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS, THE PAY OFF WAS HANDLED IN SUCH A DRAMATIC MANNER, THAT THERE WAS AN IMMEDIATE RUSH OF BUSINESS TO THE HARTFORD-BASED COMPANIES. THE INSURANCE BUSINESS WAS HERE TO STAY.

NARR: (CONT'D) TODAY THERE ARE WELL OVER FORTY COMPANIES WITH HOME OFFICES IN HARTFORD, THE LARGEST CONCENTRATION OF ANY CITY IN THE WORLD. THE INDUSTRY EMPLOYS OVER THIRTY FIVE THOUSAND PEOPLE, OR BETTER THAN TEN PERCENT OF THE WORK FORCE IN CONNECTICUT, AND IT CONTRIBUTES BETTER THAN TWO THOUSAND MILLION DOLLARS A YEAR TO CONNECTICUT PAYROLLS.

IF THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY IS A SUCCESS, THE CITY ITSELF IS NOT WITHOUT ITS PROBLEMS.

TAPE: CUT TEN -- MOE COLEMAN

"I THINK HARTFORD IS A GOOD MICROCOSM OF MOST LARGE URBAN CENTERS IN THIS COUNTRY. I THINK IT HAS BOTH PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES AT THIS PERIOD."

TAPE: CUT ELEVEN -- MOE COLEMAN

"IF YOU TAKE A LOOK AT HARTFORD THERE'S BEEN A MAJOR RENNAISANCE OF ITS LEISURE TIME ACTIVITY IN DOWNTOWN. YEARS AGO, YOU COULD SEND A BOWLING BALL DOWN ASYLUM HILL AT 9 O'CLOCK ON A SATURDAY NIGHT. YOU CAN'T DO THAT TODAY. THE TOWN'S FULL OF PEOPLE. THE CIVIC CENTER GENERATED IT. RESTAURANTS HAVE OPENED UP. THERE'S JAZZ PLACES. THERE'S YOUNG PEOPLE IN TOWN AND THE HOUSING MARKET'S STARTING TO BOOM. THERE'S NO DOUBT IN MY MIND THAT THE FACTORS, AT LEAST FOR THE DOWNTOWN AREAS OF OUR CITY, ARE BEGINNING TO MOVE UPWARD. THEY'VE BOTTOMED OUT."

NARR: BUT THE MOST SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM FACING HARTFORD IS THE NUMBER OF NEW MIGRANTS TO THE CITY WHO CONSTITUTE A SUPERFLUOUS LABOR FORCE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE CITY'S HISTORY.

TAPE: CUT TWELVE -- MOE COLEMAN

"LABOR INTENSIVE ACTIVITY IS NO LONGER BEING DONE IN THE NORTHEAST. HARTFORD LOST SEVENTEEN THOUSAND MANUFACTURING JOBS. WE HAVE A LABOR FORCE OF POOR PEOPLE THAT, FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT I KNOW OF, UNLESS SOME IMPORTANT PUBLIC ACTIONS TAKEN, ARE GOING TO BE KEPT OUT OF PRODUCTIVE WORK."

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NARR: IF HARTFORD HAS ITS PROBLEMS, IT ALSO HAS ITS SHARE OF GOOD TIMES.

TAPE: CUT THIRTEEN -- MUSIC OF CAROUSEL... ESTABLISH, THEN FADE AND UNDER FOR...

NARR: OFF TO ONE SIDE OF BUSHNELL PARK, IN AN AREA SHADED BY LARGE TREES, RIGHT IN THE HEART OF THE CITY IS THE BIGGEST, MOST BEAUTIFUL CAROUSEL YOU CAN IMAGINE. THE MERRY GO ROUND ITSELF DATES BACK TO THE TURN OF THE CENTURY, BUT IT HAS ONLY RECENTLY BEEN INSTALLED IN THE PARK. IT WAS PAINSTAKINGLY RESTORED TO ITS ORIGINAL GRANDEUR, NOT ONE DETAIL LEFT UNFINISHED. THE CAROUSEL ITSELF IS ENCLOSED IN A BEAUTIFUL WOODEN SHELL. EACH PIECE OF WOOD, MAKING UP THE TURNTABLE OF THE RIDE HAS BEEN SANDED AND STAINED, THE MECHANICAL ONE-MAN BAND HAS BEEN BEAUTIFULLY RETURNED AND MADE TO SPARKLE, AND THE HORSES, EACH ONE CARVED OF WOOD, LEAP PROUDLY FORWARD, PAINTED IN BRIGHT COLORS THAT GLISTEN IN THE SUN, AND CARRYING THEIR HORSE HAIR TAILS PROUDLY BEHIND THEM. IT COSTS TEN CENTS A RIDE, AND THERE IS USUALLY A LINE ON A SUMMER'S AFTERNOON, BUT ITS WELL WORTH THE WAIT. THE CHILDREN SCREAM WITH DELIGHT AS THEY ARE HURTLED AROUND AT WHAT SEEMS LIKE AN INCREDIBLE SPEED, BOUNCING UP AND DOWN IN GRACEFUL RHYTHM TO THE MUSIC ON THEIR MAJESTIC MARES AND STALLIONS.

TAPE: CUT FOURTEEN -- CHILDREN

"HOW LONG HAS THE CAROUSEL BEEN HERE, DO YOU KNOW?
YEAH, I WAS HERE WHEN IT FIRST STARTED. THAT WAS FROM LAST YEAR, SO I WAS HERE WHEN THEY FIRST BUILT IT.
WHEN DID YOU FIRST GET A CHANCE TO RIDE IT?
WHEN THEY FIRST PUSHED THE BUTTON, WHEN THEY FIRST MADE IT.
AND HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU RIDDEN IT SINCE. HAVE YOU KEPT COUNT?

ABOUT FIFTY TIMES."

NARR: IF YOU WERE TO STROLL ALONG MAIN STREET, DOWN TRUMBULL STREET BY THE CIVIC CENTER, OR ACROSS THE MALL ON CONSTITUTION PLAZA, YOU WOULD SOON BECOME AWARE THAT MANY OF HARTFORD'S RESIDENTS SPEAK SPANISH. IT IS NO WONDER. THE LARGEST PUERTO RICAN COMMUNITY IN AMERICA OUTSIDE THE CITY OF NEW YORK IS IN HARTFORD. APPROXIMATELY THIRTY THOUSAND PEOPLE, OR ROUGHLY ONE FIFTH OF THE CITY'S POPULATION ARE HISPANIC.

FOR PUERTO RICANS, HARTFORD IS A PORT OF ENTRY. IN YEARS PAST IT DREW THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE FROM THE RURAL AREAS OF THE ISLAND TO WORK IN THE NEARBY TOBACCO FIELDS, OR THE AREA FACTORIES.

NOW, THE FACTORIES HAVE MOVED OUT, MOST OF THE TOBACCO FIELDS HAVE BEEN TURNED INTO BUILDING LOTS, AND MANY OF THESE PEOPLE UNTRAINED FOR OTHER WORK, ARE UNEMPLOYED.

LIKE SO MANY OTHER GROUPS BEFORE THEM, HARTFORD'S PUERTO RICAN POPULATION HAS LEARNED THAT THE WAY OUT OF POVERTY IS THROUGH EDUCATION. TODAY, MANY OF HARTFORD'S SCHOOLS ARE BI-LINGUAL, SO THAT A STUDENT MAY LEARN IN THE LANGUAGE WITH WHICH HE IS MOST COMFORTABLE. IF HE SPEAKS SPANISH, HE IS TAUGHT IN SPANISH, WHILE STUDYING ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE. IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, HE SPEAKS ENGLISH, THEN, THE REVERSE APPLIES.

HARTFORD'S PUERTO RICANS HAVE ALSO DISCOVERED, THAT AN ETHNIC COMMUNITY, BONDED TOGETHER THROUGH A COMMON GOAL, CAN ACHIEVE POLITICAL POWER.

TAPE: CUT FIFTEEN -- ALBERTO IBARGUEN

"I THINK WHAT I SEE AS VERY ENCOURAGING IN TERMS OF THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY IN HARTFORD IS THAT I SEE VERY SIGNIFICANT MOVEMENT TOWARD COMMUNITY UNITY, TOWARD THE ELECTION OF HISPANICS TO POSITIONS SUCH AS THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, POSITIONS SUCH AS THE CITY COUNCIL."

NARR: THIS IS ALBERTO IBARGUEN. HARTFORD ATTORNEY, AND A MEMBER OF THE PUERTO RICAN COMMUNITY.

TAPE: CUT SIXTEEN -- ALBERTO IBARGUEN

"THERE IS RIGHT NOW FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, A VERY SERIOUS, EXTREMELY QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL WHO IS RUNNING FOR CITY COUNCI WHO IS A PUERTO RICAN MAN, A TEACHER, A VICE-PRESIDENT OF ONE OF THE LABOR UNIONS, AND HE IS DRAWING SUPPORT FROM ALL SECTORS IN THE COMMUNITY, FROM THE MOST CONSERVATIVE TO THE MOST LEFTIST, AND I THINK ITS A SIGN OF THE MATURITY OF THE COMMUNITY THAT PEOPLE FROM ALL DIFFERENT SIDES OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM HAVE BEEN WORKING VERY VERY HARD TOWARD HIS ELECTION."

NARR: HARTFORD IS A CITY RICH IN ETHNIC CULTURE. THERE ARE SIXTY FIVE DISTINCT ETHNIC GROUPS TO BE FOUND IN THIS COMPARITIVELY SMALL CITY OF 150,000 AND THEY ARE EXTREMELY PROUD OF THEIR CULTURAL HERITAGE, SO MUCH SO, IN FACT, THAT ONE WONDERS IF THE FIRE HAS GONE OUT FROM UNDER THE GREAT AMERICAN MELTIN POT.

TAPE: CUT SEVENTEEN -- MAYOR GEORGE ATHANSON

"I DON'T THINK THAT WE HAVE BEEN A MELTING POT. I THINK WE THOUGHT WE WERE A MELTING POT BUT I THINK THE PEOPLE ARE NOW GOING BACK TO THEIR ROOTS IN A VERY SIGNIFICANT AND PROFOUND SORT OF WAY. I THINK PEOPLE ARE BEGINNING TO FIND THEMSELVES. I THINK THEY'RE BEGINNING TO ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT THEMSELVES."

NARR: MAYOR GEORGE ATHANSON OF HARTFORD. IN 1971, HE ORGANIZED THE MAYOR'S ALL-AMERICAN COUNCIL, TO BRING THE VARIOUS DIVERGENT GROUPS IN THE CITY TOGETHER. THE IDEA WORKED. EACH YEAR A HUGE ETHNIC FESTIVAL IS FEATURE IN ONE OF THE CITY'S LARGE DEPARTMENT STORES, WHERE PEOPLE WEAR COLORFUL NATIVE COSTUMES, PERFORM ETHNIC DANCES, AND SELL DELICIOUS FOODS MADE FROM FAMILY RECIPES DATING BACK IN SOME CASES TWO THOUSAND YEARS, OR MORE.

TAPE: CUT EIGHTEEN -- MAYOR GEORGE ATHANSON

"WE HAVE NOW A JAMAICAN VICE CONSUL COMING ONCE A MONTH TO HARTFORD BECAUSE WE HAVE SUCH A LARGE JAMAICAN POPULATION. WE HAVE AN ITALIAN VICE CONSUL RIGHT HERE IN THE CITY OF HARTFORD SO WE'RE BECOMING A WORLD CAPITAL IN MANY RESPECTS. WE HAVE ORGANIZED AN AFRICA AFFAIRS ASSOCIATION. WE'VE HAD TWO SEMINARS IN GREATER HARTFORD ALREADY, ONE ON ANGOLA AND ONE ON SOUTH AFRICA. NOW WE'VE HAD PEOPLE COME FROM ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. NOW THIS IS THE AFRICA AFFAIRS ASSOCIATION BECAUSE WE HAVE STUDENTS HERE AND PEOPLE WHO ARE HERE FROM NIGERIA, FROM UGANDA, FROM ZIMBABWE OR RHODESIA, FROM SOUTH AFRICA, FROM EGYPT, FROM ETHIOPIA, WE HAVE ONE OR TWO FROM SOMALIA, FROM SIERRA LEONE, FROM THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC. SO YOU NAME IT. WE GOT IT HERE."

TAPE: CUT EIGHTEEN SEGUES INTO CAROUSEL MUSIC OF AMERICA...FADE AND HOLD UNDER...

NARR: CLIMB ABOARD THE CAROUSEL IN BUSHNELL PARK, AND BECOME A CHILD AGAIN. GRAB ONTO ONE OF THE UPRIGHT POLES NEAR THE RIM OF THE TURNTABLE AND LET THE BREEZE HIT YOUR FACE. AS YOU SPIN AROUND LOOK OUT OVER THE SERRATED SKYLINE THAT BORDERS THE PARK, WATCH AS THE SUN SPLASHES OFF THE GILDED DOME OF THE STATE CAPITOL, RISING ABOVE THE TREES, CATCH A GLIMPSE OF CENTER CHURCH SPIRE WHOSE FIRST PASTOR, THOMAS HOOKER HAD THE AFFRONTERY TO THINK THAT THE POWER OF THE GOVERNMENT RESTS WITH THE FREE CONSENT OF THE PEOPLE. GLANCE AT THE FACES WAITING IN LINE FOR THEIR TURN TO RIDE... IF YOU LOOK, YOU'LL SEE THEY ARE ALL DIFFERENT. SOME ARE WHITE, OTHERS ARE BLACK, STILL OTHERS ARE ORIENTAL. YOU'LL ALSO NOTICE SOMETHING ELSE. THEY'RE ALL SMILING. CALL OUT AND SAY "HELLO," OR "SALUTE" HOW ABOUT "COMO ESTAS?"

NARR: (CONT'D) "CIAO" HERE'S ONE FOR YOU "JAMBO." BELIEVE ME, YOU'LL MAKE A LOT OF PEOPLE HAPPY, AND YOU'RE GUARANTEED A REPLY. WHAT A WONDERFUL CITY IS HARTFORD. IT IS TRULY A MICROCOSM OF THE WORLD. WE HAVE ALL THE BEST THE WORLD HAS EVER OFFERED RIGHT HERE - IT'S PEOPLE. WANT TO TAKE A LOOK FOR YOURSELF? HOP ABOARD THE CAROUSEL. IT ONLY COSTS A DIME.

TAPE: CUT EITHTEEN UP TO FINISH

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